

Monday 14 October 2024

Opportunities exist to enhance duties, accountabilities and processes that support the delivery of sustainable wellbeing to current and future generations

Comptroller and Auditor General issues latest report

Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG), Lynn Pamment CBE, has today, 14 October 2024 published a report on the **Jersey Performance Framework**.

Jersey is a leading jurisdiction by enshrining into law a requirement to consider sustainable wellbeing in Government decision making. In order to measure progress against the ten sustainable wellbeing 'Island Outcomes' chosen by Islanders, the States of Jersey established the Jersey Performance Framework. The Framework combines a set of Island Outcome Indicators which focus on long-term progress towards sustainable wellbeing and Service Performance Measures that show how well the Government is currently performing.

The C&AG's review has evaluated the extent to which sustainable wellbeing and Island Outcome Indicators feature in frameworks used for providing advice to support effective decision making within the Government of Jersey.

In doing so, the review describes the progress made to date by the States of Jersey in implementing the relevant Articles of the Public Finances (Jersey) Law 2019. It identifies good practices in Jersey, compares practices in Jersey to other jurisdictions and makes recommendations to develop practices in the future.

The C&AG found that, while legislation requires the Council of Ministers to take account of sustainable wellbeing in the Government Plan, there is no statutory requirement for sustainable wellbeing to be taken into account in preparing a Common Strategic Policy. There is also no statutory responsibility placed on officers to take account of sustainable wellbeing in providing advice to Ministers or in planning the provision of public services.

The only obligation on officers is that contained within the Public Finances Manual in respect of expenditure decisions made by Accountable Officers.

Lynn Pamment notes that no explicit responsibilities are placed on scrutiny panels, the Public Accounts Committee, internal audit, the risk and audit committees or the C&AG to scrutinise or provide assurance on sustainable wellbeing obligations. The Government has however recognised the need to, and has a stated intention to, improve the public reporting of sustainability matters.

The Jersey Performance Framework has not been based specifically on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To avoid confusion, the C&AG finds that it would be helpful to set out and explain the similarities, differences and interactions between the Island Outcomes and the SDGs to enable broader comparisons between Jersey and other jurisdictions.

The C&AG has identified a number of areas where processes can be enhanced to meet best practice in embedding sustainable wellbeing principles into Government process.

She will be presenting these at a Good Practice sharing event she is hosting today, 14 October 2024: **Embedding Long Term Sustainability into Decision Making**. Other speakers at the event are from government and industry, and include Derek Walker, Future Generations Commissioner for Wales.

Lynn Pamment CBE said:

“Jersey has been at the forefront of best practice in implementing a requirement to consider sustainable wellbeing in Government decision making.

“An updated suite of Island Outcome Indicators has been published recently. Following this update there is an opportunity to enhance further the duties, accountabilities and underlying processes that support the delivery of sustainable wellbeing to current and future generations of Islanders.”

The report *Jersey Performance Framework* can be found at: <https://www.jerseyauditoffice.je>

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Notes to Editors:

- The Office of Comptroller and Auditor General ('C&AG') was established in 2005 and operates under the Comptroller and Auditor General (Jersey) Law 2014
- The remit of the C&AG includes the audit of financial statements, corporate governance, internal control and wider consideration of public funds, often expressed as 'value for money'
- The 2024 Audit Plan can be found at: www.jerseyauditoffice.je
- Lynn Pamment CBE took up the Office of C&AG on 1 January 2020 for a fixed term of seven years. Following the introduction of the Comptroller and Auditor General (Jersey) Law 2014 the term of office is fixed at seven years and is non-renewable.
- The Office of Comptroller and Auditor General is known as the 'Jersey Audit Office'.
- Contact details are: de Carteret House, 7 Castle Street, St Helier, Jersey JE2 3BT / T:716800 / E: enquiries@jerseyauditoffice.je

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- Press releases will be published by the Jersey Audit Office to accompany the publication of each report
- Embargo times, where set, will be at 0001 hours on the day of publication - for press releases, reports and all other information pertaining to the publication date
- Other press releases/ statements may be made on an occasional basis and not necessarily dependent upon the publication of a report. They will be subject to the same embargoes where set
- With any report issued, the opportunity is available for members of the press to request factual clarification, by email, of points contained therein
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- The C&AG is prepared, on an occasional basis, to provide articles for publication in the local media, following a specific request and consideration of the relevant topic
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